

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-144. (canceled)

145. (currently amended) A cash transit container security system for attaching to a cash cassette and for enabling a delivery person to transport the cash cassette to an automated teller machine (ATM), the system comprising:

a locking mechanism [[for ,]] engaging with an exterior of the cash cassette when properly locked onto the cash cassette to be protected, the locking mechanism engaging with the exterior of the cash cassette preventing contents of the cash cassette from being accessed during transportation of the cash cassette to the ATM by the delivery person;

an activatable spoiling mechanism for, when properly positioned and activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette; and

a control module for (i) controlling activation of the spoiling mechanism, (ii) sending a first signal to the ATM to indicate that the locking mechanism is properly locked onto the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned for, when activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette, (iii) after the first signal has been sent to the ATM, receiving

a second signal from the ATM indicating that the ATM has taken over responsibility for protecting the contents of the cash cassette, and (iv) controlling the locking mechanism to unlock from the cash cassette in response to receiving the second signal from the ATM, and thereby to allow the delivery person to remove the transportable cash transit container security system from the cash cassette after the cash cassette has been transported to the ATM.

146. (currently amended) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the control module communicates with the ATM to validate identities and to exchange data concerning any of the a value and/or and a denomination of money being transferred.

147. (previously presented) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a latch which allows movement of the cash cassette from a first position to a second position such that movement of the cash cassette from the first position to the second position results in activation of the spoiling mechanism to spoil the contents of the cash cassette.

148. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 147, wherein

the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of engagement elements moveable between locked and unlocked positions.

149. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 148, wherein the engagement elements comprise slidable bolts.

150. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 149, further comprising an enclosure having an opening for accepting the cash cassette.

151. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 150, wherein the engagement elements are sequentially actuatable upon input from the control module to sequentially lock onto parts as follows:

- (i) lock onto the control module;
- (ii) lock onto the control module and the cash cassette;
- (iii) lock onto the control module, the cash cassette, and the enclosure.

152-154. (cancelled)

155. (currently amended) A transportable cash transit container security system ~~according to claim 152~~ for attaching to a cash cassette and for enabling a delivery person to transport the cash cassette, the system comprising:

a locking mechanism engaging with an exterior of the cash cassette when properly locked onto the cash cassette to be protected, the locking mechanism engaging with the exterior of the cash cassette to prevent contents of the cash cassette from being accessed during transportation of the cash cassette by the delivery person;

an activatable spoiling mechanism for, when properly positioned and activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette; and

a control module for (i) controlling activation of the spoiling mechanism, (ii) receiving a first signal allowing the locking mechanism to lock onto the cash cassette, and (iii) after the first signal has been received, sending a second signal to indicate that the locking mechanism is properly locked onto the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned for, when activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette, and thereby to indicate that the contents of the cash cassette are being protected and that the cash cassette is ready to be transported by the delivery person,

wherein the locking mechanism comprises a latch which allows movement of the cash cassette from a first position to a

second position such that movement of the cash cassette from the first position to the second position results in activation of the spoiling mechanism to spoil the contents of the cash cassette.

156. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 155, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of engagement elements moveable between locked and unlocked positions.

157. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 156, wherein the engagement elements comprise slidable bolts.

158. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 157, further comprising an enclosure having an opening for accepting the cash cassette.

159. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 158, wherein the engagement elements are sequentially actuatable upon input from the control module to sequentially lock onto parts as follows:

(i) lock onto the control module;

(ii) lock onto the control module and the cash cassette;

(iii) lock onto the control module, the cash cassette, and the enclosure.

160. (previously presented) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the control module measures at least one of walk time, distance traveled, and absolute time since last release of the cash cassette, and activates the spoiling mechanism if any of the measurements exceeds a preset threshold.

161. (previously presented) A method of operating a transportable cash transit container security system to enable a delivery person to transport a cash cassette to an automated teller machine (ATM), the method comprising:

    sending a first signal to the ATM to indicate that a locking mechanism is properly locked onto the cash cassette and an activatable spoiling mechanism is properly positioned for, when activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette;

    after the first signal has been sent to the ATM, receiving a second signal from the ATM indicating that the ATM has taken over responsibility for protecting the contents of the cash cassette; and

in response to receiving the second signal from the ATM, controlling the locking mechanism to unlock from the cash cassette and thereby to allow the delivery person to remove the transportable cash transit container security system from the cash cassette after the cash cassette has been transported to the ATM.

162. (currently amended) A method according to claim 161, further comprising communicating with the ATM to validate identities and to exchange data concerning any of the a value ~~and/or~~ and a denomination of money being transferred.

163. (new) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 155, wherein the control module measures at least one of walk time, distance traveled, and absolute time since last release of the cash cassette, and activates the spoiling mechanism if any of the measurements exceeds a preset threshold.

164. (new) A transportable cash transit container security system according to claim 155, wherein the control module communicates with an ATM to validate identities and to exchange data concerning any of a value and a denomination of money being transferred.

165. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the locking mechanism engages with a removable closure sealing an opening in the exterior of the cash cassette to thereby lock the removable closure and seal the cash cassette.